

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Fig. 2. In Fig. 2, two (2) instances of “vaper” has been replaced with --vapor--.

Attachment: Replacement sheet
 Annotated sheet showing changes

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-5 are amended. Claims 6-20 are new. Claims 1, 5, and 13 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the various rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Drawings

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has accepted the drawings. Attached herewith are drawing corrections to Fig. 2 to correct minor typographical errors. Specifically, the word "VAPER" has been replaced with --VAPOR--. It is respectfully submitted that such corrections do not add any new matter to the present application.

Claim for Priority

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has recognized Applicants' claim for foreign priority. In view of the fact that Applicants' claim for foreign priority has been perfected, no additional action is required from Applicants at this time.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0204775 to Keyes et al. (hereafter "Keyes"). This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

As amended, independent claim 1 requires the optimal pattern search must be for “**performing a look-up** of the categorization efficiency table...in order to output an instruction to control each of the one or more operation elements...**without simulating or computing an operation efficiency**” (emphasis added). Independent claim 5 recites a method employing a similar feature. Applicants respectfully submit that claims that Keyes fails to disclose these features.

In the rejection, the Examiner relies on the economic models 72 disclosed in Keyes (paragraph 0037) to teach the claimed categorization efficiency table. See Office Action at page 3, paragraph 4. Furthermore, the Examiner relies upon Keyes’s use of these models to determine “profitability” of the plant (paragraph 0027) to teach the computation of operation efficiency.

In view of the Examiner’s interpretation of Keyes, Applicants point out the following passage in paragraph 0036 of Keyes:

“[A]fter being processed, the data is provided to one or more models 72 which may **perform different economic calculations** on the economic and process data to provide information that may be provided to and used by one or more service or service applications 74...to devise, for example, a measure that determines what percentage of manufacturing and support resources is consumed by each shift/day and/or product” (emphasis added).

As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the economic models in Keyes are used for **performing simulation** and **calculating** measures of **efficiency** (i.e., profitability). Applicants submit that there is no teaching or suggestion that it is possible for Keyes’s system to perform a look-up in these models, instead Keyes clearly performs some sort of simulation or calculation.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Keyes does not teach performing a look-up of a table in order to output control instructions without simulating or computing operation efficiency, as required by independent claims 1 and 5.

At least for the reasons set forth above, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 5 are allowable, and that claims 2-4 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 5. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

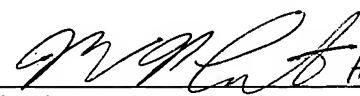
CONCLUSION

Should the Examiner believe that any outstanding matters remain in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Jason W. Rhodes (Reg. No. 47,305) at the telephone number of the undersigned to discuss the present application in order to expedite prosecution.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Date: October 20, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Replacement sheet of Fig. 2
Annotated sheet showing changes of Fig. 2

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Fig. 2

